

Weekly Status and Information Report: Week of October 17-21, 2011

Official City Meetings Scheduled the Week of October 24, 2011:

- City Council meeting, Monday, October 24, 7:30 p.m. in the Auditorium
- Arts and Humanities Commission, Tuesday, October 25, 7:30 p.m. in the Lilac Room
- Takoma Junction Task Force meeting, Thursday, October 26, 7:00 p.m. in the Hydrangea Room

All meetings are held in the Community Center and open to the public unless noted otherwise. Contact JessieC@takomagov.org to check for cancellations or for additional information. (City Clerk)

Purple Line Open Houses: The Maryland Transit Administration will be holding four Open Houses in November about the proposed Purple Line light rail project. These open houses run from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.; all four will provide the same information. Choose from Tuesday, November 1 - University of Maryland Adele H. Stamp Student Union, Prince George's Room, College Park; Wednesday, November 2 - National 4-H Youth Conference Center, 7100 Connecticut Avenue, Chevy Chase; Monday, November 7 - Silver Spring Civic Building, Silver Spring; Thursday, November 10 - Beacon Heights Elementary School, 6929 Furman Parkway, Riverdale. (Housing and Community Development)

Opening and Silent Art Auction - Tonight: Join us tonight for the opening of two new exhibits - "The Apricot Tree" and "Running with Scissors." A great opportunity to meet the artists and to bid on their work at our first ever silent auction. Reception begins at 6:00 p.m. and runs until 8:00 p.m. at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. <http://www.facebook.com/events/#!/event.php?eid=288533771174687> (Housing and Community Development)

Chamber Music - Tonight: "Washington Music Viva" kicks off its new chamber music concert this evening at 7:30 p.m. in the Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium, 7500 Maple Avenue. Program includes Trio in B major Op. 8 by Johannes Brahms and Trio Op. 150 by Amy Beach. Performing are Nicholas Currie (violin), Adam Gonzalez (cello), and Carl Banner (piano). Ticketed event. <http://www.facebook.com/>

[events/#!/event.php?eid=124108284363434](http://www.facebook.com/events/#!/event.php?eid=124108284363434) (Housing and Community Development)

Dance, Dance, Dance on Sunday! The Eureka Dance Festival returns to "We are Takoma" on Sunday, October 23 with a Masters Dance Class with Tzveta Kassabova at 5:00 p.m. in the Dance Studio followed by a works-in-progress performance at 7:00 p.m. by "Eureka Dance Festival" choreographers and nationally recognized dancer and choreographer Lauren Putty White. Free admission - suggested donation of \$5 to \$10. <http://www.facebook.com/events/#!/event.php?eid=108527352590519> (Housing and Community Development)

Last Chance To File 2011 Homeowners Tax Credit Application - October 31: Don't miss the October 31 deadline for submitting your application for the Maryland Tax Credit Program. The program is designed to help low-income home owners by limiting the amount that they pay in property taxes. To receive the tax credit, an application and all supporting documentation must be sent to the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation no later than October 31. An application can be obtained by calling 301-891-7222. They are also available online at <http://www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/taxcredits.html> (Housing and Community Development)

Financial Management Classes - Free to Takoma Park Residents - November 2: Do you want to become more adept at managing your finances? Takoma Park is offering two classes; "Changing The Way You Think About Finances" on November 2 and, on November 16, "Thinking Like An Investor." Both classes will be held at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue, 7:00 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. Pre-registration is required by calling Linda Walker at 301-891-7222. (Housing and Community Development)

The Day of the Dead - Next Saturday: There's a whole lot going on at the Takoma Park Community Center next Saturday, October 29! Join us as we celebrate "Dia de Los Muertos" - a traditional holiday dedicated to the remembrance of one's ancestors - and Halloween! Create your own personal 'shrine' to a beloved memory at 1 p.m. in the Art Room. The festivities continue with the Recreation Department's Canine Costume contest at 3:00 p.m., the Annual Costume Contest at

5:00 p.m. in Old Town, followed by the always fun Halloween parade and celebration at 5:45 p.m. End the day back at the Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium with a free performance by the De Colores Mexican Folk Dance Company of DC at 7:30 p.m. (Housing and Community Development)

Monday! Bus Rapid Transit Open House: Montgomery County planners are hosting a community meeting on Monday, October 24 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at 8787 Georgia Ave. to discuss a promising solution -- bus rapid transit (BRT). Rapid transit, similar to light rail, offers bus priority on dedicated lanes, fast passenger boarding, and speedy fare collection. The bus rapid transit study will advance the recommendations of a County rapid transit task force considering New Hampshire Avenue among other roadways. As part of the plan, staff will analyze ridership potential and identify where dedicated lanes may be needed through acquiring right-of-way or converting traffic lanes to bus lanes to help move people faster. Visitors to Monday's open house can browse through informational stations and let planners know how they think BRT service could fit into their communities. A short formal presentation will take place at approximately 6:15 p.m. For more information about the BRT study, go to www.montgomeryplanning.org/transportation/highways/brt. (Housing and Community Development)

Montgomery BikeShare Planning: City staff attended the Montgomery County Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy & Environment (T&E) committee Monday afternoon for a briefing on bicycle infrastructure and a proposal to expand the Capital BikeShare (CaBi) to Montgomery County. The final committee statement of County Councilmembers Berliner, Floreen, and Riemer endorsed initiating the program to build north from the District line in Forest Glen/Bethesda and Takoma Park/Silver Spring. Nancy Floreen commented to MCDOT that it was time that Montgomery County made a commitment to bicycle infrastructure and safety (also pedestrian). (Housing and Community Development)

Montgomery County Bicycle Ride-Along: City planning staff and the Safe Routes to School Coordinator attended the County ride along for Montgomery County officials, urban districts and other interested bicycle advocacy groups. It was an excellent opportunity to network with the County, SHA, and bicycle advocates on safety issues.

(Housing and Community Development)

Urban Design Guidelines Delayed (Ward 6): The Takoma Langley Sector Plan Urban Design Guidelines are not likely to be considered by the Planning Board until November at the earliest. (Housing and Community Development)

Boy Scouts Helping Out: On Saturday, October 15, thirty Boy Scouts joined City Gardener Mike Welsh on an ongoing project to reforest and remove invasive plants from the hillside behind the Community Center and Library. Their work included spreading 15 yards of wood chips around newly planted trees. (Public Works)

Teen College Tour: Twelve teens did not waste their day off. Today, the Recreation staff and teen participants headed to Morgan and Coppin State Universities for a campus tour. Stay tuned next month as the Recreation Department takes teens to the Historically Black College and University Expo on Saturday, November 12. Contact the Recreation Department for more information. (Recreation)

Special Event for Seniors: The New Dimension Singers took Takoma Park seniors on a musical tour across America in a energetic performance on Tuesday, October 18 in the Community Center Auditorium. Fifty seniors enjoyed many familiar tunes, including Georgia on My Mind, Oklahoma, New York-New York, Nothing Could Be Finer than to be in Carolina, and many other favorites. The performance was enhanced by delightful props, dialogue, costumes, and choreography. Many thanks to the Communications Department for their help with this special event. (Recreation)

Seniors Visit the Brewmaster's Castle: Twenty seniors celebrated Oktoberfest in a unique way this month with a tour of this fascinating historic site on Friday, October 21. Built in 1892, the Brewmaster's Castle is the late-Victorian style home of German-American beer baron Christian Heurich and is included on the National Register of Historic Places. Heurich was most successful brewer in Washington, D.C. He ran his brewery, on what is now the site of the Kennedy Center, until his death in 1945. (Recreation)

Tennis Clinic: The fall tennis clinic wrapped up on Tuesday, October 18. In the final session, participants were able to show off all the skills that they learned throughout the five-week clinic. Each class ended in some pretty intense match play (single and double) as each player got a chance to play. The Recreation Department would like to thank all the youth who participated in the clinic. (Recreation)

Winter Basketball League – Over 100 Youth Already Registered! If you haven't signed up already; now is the time! Teams are being formed for the 2012 Winter Basketball League. This program is open to all girls and boys ages 5 – 12 years old and in grades K – 8. To register online please visit: www.activenet.active.com/takomaparkrecreation. For additional information or if you are interested in being a volunteer coach, please contact Lew McAllister at (301) 891-7284 or LewM@takomagov.org. (Recreation)

Outdoor Street Hockey – Great Turnout: Over 30 girls and boys came out and participated in the outdoor street hockey program this past Thursday. Games were exciting to watch, as players were cheered on and pumped up after every goal by the newly added street hockey cheerleaders. Teamwork was the theme of the day and was evident with every goal. The program will resume next Thursday. (Recreation)

Council of Governments Graduation (Recreation): Graduation ceremonies took place in the Council of Governments headquarters on Friday, October 14. Eric Rasch, Recreation Manager, was congratulated by Greg Clark, Interim Recreation Director, and Mayor Bruce Williams (MWCOG Board of Directors Chair, IRE Advisory Board). Eric is now a Certified Public Manager through George Washington University and COG. (Recreation)

Recreation Department Reaches Out to International Community: Eric Rasch, Recreation Manager, was invited to speak to parents at Piney Branch Elementary School on Wednesday evening, October 19. The school held an English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) outreach event. Translators spoke to parents directly in Amharic, French, and Spanish through wireless devices. Estimated attendance: 50 parents. (Recreation)

Double Dutch Continues: Come out and enjoy the art of Double Dutch. Double Dutch is a fun and aerobic endurance workout that includes single rope jumping, double dutch turning, jumping, stretching, and jogging. For ages 6-14, this program is held at the Takoma Park Recreation Center on Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Come on out and enjoy the fun. For more information, contact John Webster at 301-891-7289. (Recreation)

Be Fit! Join the Fitness Room at the Recreation Center! Takoma Park Recreation Center offers a Fitness Room for your work-out convenience. Purchase a membership today to use state of the art equipment. The Fitness Room offers stair climbers, ellipticals, treadmills, upright bikes, and recumbent bikes. For more information, contact John Webster at 301-891-7289. (Recreation)

Fun Day Program goes to Greenbelt: The Recreation Department's "Fun Day" program reached capacity as 32 participants visited Greenbelt Park on Friday, October 21. During the trip, the kids were able to play outdoors, walk on trails, and eat lunch. They continued the fun at Laugh Out Loud where more activities awaited. The next "Fun Day" adventure trip will visit the Baltimore Zoo and is scheduled for Friday, October 31; a few open spaces remain – register today. (Recreation)

Library Book Sale! Come tomorrow, Saturday, October 22, to the twice-yearly Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library's book sale, which takes place from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. on the Library lawn. With thousands of new and gently-used books available, the Friends book sale is a great place to get some real bargains. At the same time, you're helping the Library as the Friends-sponsored book sales are our major source of funds for popular programs like our weekly Spanish Circle Time, our monthly French Circle Time, our College Bound programs, etc. Come early for the best selection! (Library)

Harry Potter: On Monday, October 24 at 7:00 p.m., the Library's Junior and Senior Banned Books Clubs will join together to discuss Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets. Participants are invited to come in costume as their favorite Harry Potter character, but wearing a costume is NOT mandatory! Registration is encouraged; to register, please go to

www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html or call us at 301-891-7259. (NOTE: The Senior Banned Books Club discussion of *The Sun Also Rises*, scheduled for October 24, is postponed to Monday, November 28 at 7:30 p.m.) (Library)

Circle Time Halloween: Circle Time attendees are invited to wear costumes on Tuesday, October 25, as part of our annual Halloween Circle Time. We have two Circle Times each Tuesday (10:00 - 10:30 a.m. and 11:00 - 11:30 a.m.). Choose one time or the other, and come with your little one for some rousing fun with songs, rhymes and movement exercises! (Library)

Scary Stories: Join us on Wednesday, October 26 at 7:30 p.m. for our annual pre-Halloween "Scary Stories" program, led by veteran Takoma Park storyteller Candace Wolf. This program is a great way to get into the Halloween spirit and is best for ages 5 up. Registration encouraged; to register, please go to www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html or call us at 301-891-7259. (Library)

Cutting For Stone: The Friends Reading Group will discuss *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese on Thursday, October 27 at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend this discussion, which will take place in the Hydrangea Room of the Takoma Park Community Center. (Library)

Grad School Class: Library Assistant Dave Burbank, the Library's graphic novel guru, and Children's Librarian Karen MacPherson made a presentation on graphic novels to a class of graduate students at the University of Maryland's School of Information Studies, aka "Maryland's iSchool." The students are taking a class in children's literature and studying graphic novels and comics as part of their curriculum. (Library)

Police in Meetings:

- On October 17, Chief Ricucci met the State Department's liaison for law enforcement to discuss mutual problems.
- On October 19, Chief Ricucci held the monthly Chief's Advisory Board Meeting.
- On October 19, Chief Ricucci and the Municipal Chiefs from Gaithersburg, Rockville and Chevy Chase met with Chief Manger of

Montgomery County Police to discuss the proposed curfew law.

Police in Training: This week, Lt. Collington, Sgt. Smith, Cpl. Gaskin, Cpl. Wolff, Pfc. Butler, and Crime Analyst Gucciardo attended training entitled "Why Teens Kill" at the New Carrollton Police Department. Sgt. Poole, Cpl. Erwin, Pfc. Godlewski, and Pfc. Demuth attended Honor Guard Training at the Calhoon MEBA Engineering School in Easton. Sgt. Frishkorn, Cpl. Black, and Pfc. Cannatella attended training entitled "Israeli Point Shooting" at the Anne Arundel County Police Department's Training Academy Firearms Range.

Crime Report: The most recent Takoma Park Police Weekly Crime Report (October 14-20, 2011) may be viewed online at: http://tppolice.blogspot.com/2011/10/takoma-park-police-department-weekly_20.html.

Traffic Enforcement: Officers conducted at least 165 traffic stops, which resulted in citations and two arrests from traffic. During October 14-20, 2011, the following details were completed:

October 14, 2011

- New Hampshire Avenue & Holton Lane (red light enforcement) – conducted a 30-minute detail and issued two State citations.
- Ethan Allen Avenue at Jackson Avenue (stop sign enforcement) - conducted a 30-minute detail and issued no citations or warnings.
- Maple Avenue & Lincoln Avenue (stop sign enforcement) - conducted a 30-minute detail and issued two State citations.
- Maple Avenue & Ritchie Avenue (stop sign enforcement) - conducted a 30-minute detail and issued two State citations.
- Philadelphia Avenue & Holly Avenue (stop sign enforcement) - conducted a 90-minute detail and issued seven State citations.
- Maple Avenue & Sherman Avenue (stop sign enforcement) - conducted a 60-minute detail and issued five State citations and two warnings.

October 16, 2011

- Grant Avenue & Maple Avenue (traffic control device) - conducted a

30-minute detail and issued two State citations.

- New Hampshire Avenue & Holton Lane (no left turn/no u-turn) - conducted a 30-minute detail and issued one State citation and one warning.

October 17, 2011

- Erskine Street & 13th Avenue (stop sign enforcement) - conducted a 60-minute detail and issued eight State citations.

October 19, 2011

- 600 block of Philadelphia Avenue (speeding) - conducted a 30-minute detail and issued one State citation.

- Maple Avenue & Tulip Avenue (stop sign enforcement) - conducted a 90-minute detail and issued 12 State citations and one warning.

- 7100 block of New Hampshire Avenue (tag reader/suspensions) – conducted a detail at various times and issued eight State citations.

- Poplar Avenue at 4th Avenue (stop sign enforcement) - conducted a 60-minute detail and issued five State citations and one warning.

October 20, 2011

- Erskine Avenue at 13th Place (stop sign enforcement) - conducted a 60-minute detail and issued two State citations.

Traffic Officer Stats - Week of 10/14/11 - 10/20/11 (Cpl. Michelle Holmes):

Calls for service: 8

State Citations issued: 86

City tickets: 6

Reports: 10

Safety Equipment Repair Orders: 3

Warnings: 4

Warrant arrests: 1

Court: 6.5 hours

